

8 March 1975

Executive Registry

75-5156

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Mr. Boos of Mr. Nedzi's Staff,
7 March 1975

1. Boos is transferring from his staff responsibilities for Nedzi to the House Select Committee for work on the investigation. After general preliminary discussions with George Cary and myself, re the nature and substance of the House interest, Cary departed and the discussion went on for another hour. It ranged from coverage of the manner in which the Committee should structure itself for the review to discourses on security and individual member's interests. I advised Boos of the arrangements we were making with the Senate and assured him that materials made available to the Senate were also available to the House and vice versa. I urged that the Staff Director for the House join forces with the Senate so as to avoid undue duplication of materials, overlapping of inquiry, and the like. Boos seemed primarily concerned with how to assure investigators were given full and proper access to materials they might need. I explained that the annexes, copies of which had been provided to him, provide a general starting point. In order that investigators were current on these basic details, I have advised him of the inquiries made by the Senate on budget and personnel data. I suggested that if he could identify the general categories of investigation the Committee wished to pursue and provide general questions it should be possible to develop responses and provide these to investigators who could then check on the details, call witnesses, and the like.

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1- Each Unit Ad Hoc - ? (3/14/75)
1- OGC
1- Chron
1- House Select

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2. It is evident that, as in the case of the Senate, the staff will be starting basically at zero and will be needing to get background data and some simple way to probe the data provided.

3. Boos also queried about security investigations. I advised him of the Senate use of the FBI to get "Q" clearances. We discussed the need for secrecy agreements from staff, and the application of the principle of need-to-know on special compartmented clearances. I volunteered that we planned to provide the Senate Counsel with an identification of compartmented clearances so that determination could be made on the extent to which individuals in the Senate staff needed access. I suggested the House follow suit. Mr. Boos emphasized that the Chairman wished to avoid as much "bureaucratic" compartmentation as possible. He stated that the House staff would be small as compared to the Senate and queried whether it would not be reasonable to provide all House staff access to all compartmented data. He asked whether they could have all the clearances he has. I pointed out the importance of protecting the need-to-know principle.

4. Boos responded by stating that some members of the Committee would probably want to probe into just about every aspect of intelligence operations. He stated a concern that under the rules of the House it would be technically possible for other members to request and receive all information made available to the House Select Committee. I stated that this was not an acceptable arrangement and inquired what Chairman Nedzi planned to do. He advised that the Chairman was working to void the rule in the case of the Select Committee but observed that to do so required full cooperation of all members of the Select Committee. He stated concern about how Harrington might go. He noted that the Chairman was doing a soft shoe to try to solicit a coherent Select Committee position in case the voiding of the rule is challenged on the floor.

5. I observed that there may be other problems on both sides of this matter which we would need understood and worked out between Chairman Nedzi and the Director. I suggested we meet next week after some of the Senate groundrules were agreed upon, to discuss how best to proceed on the House side. We agreed to work up a list of matters that needed coverage in a Colby/Nedzi session. I explained that procedures had to be defined which described the scope and access expected in the inquiry. He advised that the Chairman would probably agree but it was not clear that all members of the Committee would agree to place limitations of any kind at the outset. He did not, however, feel that the groundrules established for the Senate should have any problem in their adoption on the House side.

6. The meeting was cordial and cooperative. Boos is a bright young man who seems to have a full appreciation of the problems facing Mr. Nedzi in the Select House Committee Chair. He is earnestly seeking guidance and appears to be prepared to accept suggestions and initiatives of the Director. However, throughout the course of the discussion, I sensed continued concern about how Congressional investigators could be assured that they were given full and complete information by the Executive Branch in response to questions and how to avoid later surprises.



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